THE PORT FOLIO,

(NEW SERIES)

BY OLIVER OLDSCHOOL, ESQ.

Various, that the mind of desultory man, studious of change and pleased with novelty, may be indulged—Cowp.

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ORIGINAL PAPERS.

For The Port Folio.

TRAVELS.

LETTERS FROM GENEVA AND FRANCE.

Written during a residence of between two and three years in different parts of those countries, and addressed to a lady in Virginia.

——quâ me quoque possim
Tollere humo. VIR.

Je dirai j'étais là, telle chose m'advint,
Vous y croyriez être vous-mêmes.

LA FONTAINE.

(*Continued from page* 163.)

LETTER VII.

Geneva.

My dear E——,

THE suburbs of the city extend so far, and the succession of country houses, and of villages is so continued, that we were at the first post, before we thought ourselves well out of Bordeaux. We soon discovered that our carriage was not as cheap a one as we first had thought, and I foresaw, without any great regret, however, that we should be detained in some town, in order to have it repaired. Towns, villages, churches, castles and country houses, were on both sides of us, as we rode through one continued vineyard, loaded with the finest grapes; at some distance on the left, was the Garonne; beyond were hills, which appeared as well cultivated as the plain, but against which it is probable that the sea formerly rolled; no fences or hedges are anywhere to be seen, except in the neighbourhood of houses, which takes away from the prospect the appearance of distinct and independent property, that I remember being pleased with, in England. But the road was excellent, and we were soon at Castres, where the people of the house comforted us about Mr. F.: an English boy, they said, had stopt there, the day before; there was something melancholy in his countenance, but the gentleman he was with seemed to pay great attention to him.

Strange as it may seem to you, there are very few French, who have yet found out that the Americans are, in any respect, a separate people from the English. Now look at the map, which, I presume, you keep

spread upon the table, before you, find Langon on the Garonne, and you will be at the place we passed our first evening at; the inn had been a fortified castle in former days, and like all castles, was dark and gloomy, but the table-cloth and napkins were clean, the supper good, the people all civility and attention, and the beds were excellent: it is here that the tide ceases to be perceived, and there was a crowd of boats under our window. The next morning, we crossed the Garonne, and as I walked upon the opposite side of the town, and looked back upon it, so many ideas presented themselves to my mind, that, if I were writing a book, instead of a letter, they would serve for a chapter.

The inn we had just left was evidently an ancient fortress, built upon a steep rock by the side of the river, and served, no doubt, some four or five hundred years ago, to support the pride, and protect the plunder of some mighty Baron; at a small distance lower down, was a church which had been erected by the English, while they were masters of this fine country; then came the convent of the poor Ursuline nuns, who had been driven into the wide world with contempt and ruin; and then succeeded the dismantled habitation of an emigrant nobleman. We kept the river on our right, occasionally driving through small towns, generally dignified with the ruins of a castle, and along a highly cultivated scene of vines, hemp, Indian corn, and tobacco: this last appeared of an inferiour sort, and, though fit to cut, not better than the second growth at the mountains.

We passed rapidly through Aiguillon, where the Duke, during his exile, amused himself by building a spacious, but by no means handsome palace, and stopt for the night at port St. Marie. To us, whom Smollet, and other travellers, had inspired with no advantageous ideas of French inns, the surprize was as great as it was agreeable, to find everything of the best, and in abundance; and all that could be wished for, with the single exception of clean floors, and you may judge for yourself, from our bill of fare at Port St. Marie's, where the inn had been represented as an ordinary one. There were fish, pigeons, (a very superiour bird to the American pigeon,) veal, ortolans, and sallad, and a desert, of course: with such accommodations, therefore, with good roads, through a finely cultivated, and well inhabited country, and with cheerful and good natured postillions, guilty of no fault, but of driving rather too fast, and, to crown all, with good weather, in a delightful climate, you may suppose how agreeably we travelled.

We were the next morning early, at Agen, the capital of a district, long famous for grain and fruit, of every sort, and for the neighbouring meadows on the Garonne, and where one of the largest inns I ever beheld seemed at once to possess the largest and dirtiest kitchen: there was meat and game of every sort, and fish in abundance, and ortolans by dozens, and four or five cooks busily employed; but the flies flew from place to place like the Harpies of Virgil, or if you prefer the comparison like the black birds of K—, and would have checked the appetite of Famine itself.

I found several English officers here, who were prisoners of war, and who fastened upon me, as they would have done upon a countryman, nor did I feel less for them then if I had been: there were about two hundred sailors they told me in the town, who were allowed to undertake work for the inhabitants, and enjoyed themselves exceedingly.

(To be continued.)

For The Port Folio.

CRITICISM.

On the Italian Theatre.

We have already observed, that in Italy, how little soever the Comick and Tragick Muses may be under-

stood, the Opera, or Lyrick part of the Drama is by no means left in neglect. This last species of dramatick composition has been carried, by the Italians, to a degree of perfection to which the other nations of Europe are almost entirely strangers; for which reason, at the present day, their musick, their singers, and even the language and text of their compositions are everywhere preferred. This is, however, only to be understood of the serious, or heroick opera, of which Alessandro Scarlatti, who died in 1725, is to be considered as the father. His pupils have been universally acknowledged as the greatest masters which the art has ever produced; and their compositions rival those celebrated masterpieces of antiquity, which the moderns have imitated, without being able to equal. We need only mention the names of Porpora, Leonardo, Leo, Durante, and their successours, who, though inferiour to their masters, have excelled the other composers of Europe. Among the pupils of this school, we must distinguish the names of Vinci, Pergolese, Jomelli, Sacchini, Piccini, and Guglielmi; and those of our cotemporaries, Paisiello, Anfossi, Cimiarosa, &c.

The names of these illustrious artists require no comment; they do honour to their country, and have received the applause of surrounding nations. Even the composers of other countries are so deeply impressed with a sense of the superiority of the Italians, that those whose great talents challenge our admiration, as Handel, Hasse, Gluck, and Gassmann, have formed themselves in this school; and the Italians, when called upon to maintain the reputation of their musick, do not hesitate to cite these, as belonging to the number of their own composers. But these very men enjoy in Italy, only a subordinate rank, and their elevation is proportioned to their approach to the great standards of perfection. All the attempts of foreigners, to establish the credit of their own musick, have hitherto been fruitless, and notwithstanding the powerful patronage of the Queen of Naples, the works of Misliweczek, those of a director of musick, from Berlin, and of several others, which have been performed upon the Italian Theatres, have uniformly been denied encouragement.

Two striking instances may suffice, to confirm what has been advanced. In 1797, the grand duke intimated a wish to see the opera of *Figaro*, by Mozart, performed upon the theatre of Florence. This opera made very little impression upon the audience, though the performers did it every justice, both in the management and execution.

At Naples, several airs from the Clemenza di Tito, and from the *Magick Compositions for the Flute*, by Mozart, though sung by the most admired singers, were received with very limited and cold applause. On this occasion, it was observed, by one of the best judges in Naples, that in the serious airs of La Clemenza, several traces of genius were evident enough to show what the authour might have performed, had he formed his taste after the Italian school, but, that the *magick compositions for the Flute* were mere theatrical ballads, destitute of any kind of merit.

It must be confessed, that Mozart himself did not consider his magick compositions as his chief performance. Influenced by the intreaties of his friends, who represented to him that his compositions were for the most part too learned, and too difficult for the generality of the publick, he composed them from a text which is a mixture of heterogeneous ideas, and which is even deficient in point of common sense. Mozart himself was not a competent judge of this German text, for he had previously composed only after the Italians, which he preferred to all others. His opera of *Don Giovanni*, *La Clemanza di Tito*, and *Cosi fan Tutti*, are incontestible proofs of his rare genius, and deserve, in every respect, to be performed at the opera house at Paris,

in preference to the *magick compositions for the Flute*.

It is not these last are wholly inferiour to his other productions; for, on the contrary they contain some choruses truly sublime, and several airs, highly beautiful: but, these fragments are not the foundation of the success it has obtained in Germany. The little catches of Papageno and his wife, the melody of which is very delightful, and easily caught (for which reason the audience commonly has them by heart, when the representation is over) have contributed the most to the gaining the favour of the publick, at the Frankfort fairs, and in other places. But the splendid decorations have no doubt, had no small share in the production of this general enthusiasm; and the sentiments of the publick have now taken an entirely opposite turn. From being accustomed to hear these little catches at every concert, upon every Harpsichord, and even in the streets, a general dislike has ensued. Meanwhile, competent criticks never had any difficulty in declaring their opinion of the comparative merits of the *magick compositions for the Flute*, and *Don Giovanni*, or *La Clemenza*. The argument of each of these two last species is likewise more suitable to the character of the serious opera; that of the first being a mere loose and heterogeneous assemblage of ideas, the bare perusal of which is tiresome.

The German composers accuse the Italians of laying too much stress upon the harmony of sounds, and of neglecting the study of the theory of musick. The Italians, in their defence, alledge, that the Germans can form only a very partial idea of their opera, from the theatres of Vienna, Prague, or Berlin, which can only employ singers of a second or even third rate; and that, to become competent judges of the grand effect of the composition of Cimarosa, Guglielmi, Paisiello and others, they must visit Naples or Venice.

The *ballet*, which, formerly was no more than an interlude, given between the acts, is now esteemed an essential part of the Italian opera; *Salti mortali* having been rejected, and the superiour eloquence of gestures, and the silent expression of the passions, having been acknowledged with due admiration: a species of acting this last, which was first introduced by Noverre Vestris. The argument is commonly taken from mythology, or ancient history.

The first theatre in Italy, is that of San Carlos, at Naples. The comick theatre, or opera Bufta, which Piccini formerly raised to a great degree of credit, has much declined. The same degree of respect is not paid to this class of actors as to those of the Opera Seria: and its composers, who are, for the most part, young beginners, after having gained some reputation in this line, enter into the service of the *Opera Seria*. The argument of these little operas is commonly very unimportant; while the dignity and credit of the *Opera Seria* is supported by the pieces of Metastasio.

The theatre of San Venice, at Venice though not so spacious as that of San Carlos, at Naples, is indisputably one of the most elegant and convenient theatres in Europe. This edifice was constructed in 1791, at the expense of the nobility, by Antonio di Selva, a young architect, and exhibits one of the most masterly specimens of modern architecture.

During the carnival, comick operas are perfomed upon the four theatres of San Benedetto, San Angelo, Sain Moise, and San Somnele; each bearing the appellation of a church in its vicinity.

The other cities of Italy, with respect to their opera, are in every wise inferiour to Naples and Venice. The Romans are extremely nice and delicate in the measure and time of their musick; and there are instances in which operas, applauded at Naples, have been rejected at Rome. In the Roman opera, *Castrati*, supply the place of women. The theatre is open

during only a few months in the year.

The theatre *Della Pergola*, at Florence, has suffered by the unsettled condition of Europe. The Theatre at Turin holds a subordinate rank among the Italian theatres. In 1791, there was a pretty good *opera Seria* at Genoa. At Milan, and Bologna, very indifferent operas have, for some years past, been occasionally performed.

BIOGRAPHY.

Dr. King, son of Ezekiel King, of London, was an example how much splendid talents may be misapplied. With advantages from nature and station, sufficient to have raised him to an enviable height, he ingloriously gave himself up to the writing of madrigals, retirement, and spleen. Education at Westminister School, and Christ Church Oxford; and studying at Doctor's Commons; he afterwards went with the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Lieutenant to Ireland, where he became judge advocate, sole commissioner of the prizes, and keeper of the records of that kingdom. Instead of improving these advantages, he lost them in celebrating in verse, the wonderful benefits of "Mully his Cow." Disgusted with his conduct, Pembroke withdrew his patronage. The poetical judge, Upton, and King, cared little for the viceroy, and less for the law; and they piped till it was necessary for King to cross the Irish Channel; and he returned less wealthy than he went, and depended only for his support, upon his fellowship at Oxford. Of what avail was his eight years' labours in the university, and perusing the twenty-two thousand books and manuscripts, with his selections from them? to write, "The Art of Cookery, in verse;" a play or two; "On the Tooth-picks of the Ancients;" "The Art of Love;" "An historical account of the Heathen Gods and Goddesses, for Schools;" "The Transactioner," to ridicule Sir Hans Sloane: a man whose science was an honour to his country.—King was one of the tory sycophants supported by Bolingbroke, who was himself soon after deprived of that power and influence which afforded the means of patronage. Instead of being a patron to his family and his friends, he was obliged to humble himself to the patronage of Swift, who procured him the office of gazetteer, with a salary of 250*l* upon condition that he should be "diligent and sober," for which the Dean passed his word. What a folly was this, that he, who had abilities to have graced the bench of justice, should be obliged to submit to the humiliation of Alderman Barber, the printer's imperious beck, who commanded his attendance with an impudence unparalleled; making him sit till three o'clock in the morning, to correct the press, on those days the Gazette came out, though a corrector was paid for doing it: and his brutality was even heightened by the obligations Barber owed to the very man he so basely abused. To what meanness does genius without discretion submit! No wonder that exhausted patience fled from such tyranny. He left "the haunts of men" for the inglorious tranquillity of a boon companion, a bottle and a book. Nature drooped. He then would see no one, not even his last patron, Lord Clarendon, whom he used often to visit. His lordship's sister brought him, with a friendly violence, to an apartment prepared for him opposite Somerset House, where he died, as he had lived, very religiously, on the next day at noon, December 25, 1712; and was buried in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, at the expense of his lordship. If Dr. King misapplied, he cannot be charged with perverting his talents, by writing obscenely or profanely. As he could not write till he was "reasonably flushed," it gave rise to these lines by Christopher Pitt:

"'Twas from the bottle King derived his wit:
"Drank till he could not talk, and then he writ."*

* It seems a confirmation of the truth of this remarkable trait in his character, that

Richard Gwinnett, Esqr. son of Mr. George Gwinnett, of Great Shurdington, in Gloucestershire, was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, under the tuition of Dr. Gastrell; whence he removed to the Middle Temple, but the air of London disagreed with his delicate state of health, and he retired into the country, having abandoned his profession. Mr. Gwinnett was an admirer of Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas; but their union was suspended through prudential motives. After sixteen years had elapsed, he urged his immediate marriage with that lady, who was then with her mother in London; but Dr. Garth had pronounced he could not survive six months. She therefore told him, to prevent his importunity, she would be his in that time; to which he replied with a deep sigh, "Ah! madam, six months now are as much as sixteen years have been; you put it off *now*, and God will do it for *ever*." Poor Gwinnett retired to his seat in the country, made his will, and died April 16, 1717. He left Mrs. Thomas 600*l.* and sorrow was her "food ever after." Had she married him, she had been, as she said, secured from the "insults of poverty." Heaven knows insults are inseparable from poverty, even when virtue, wit, and beauty ought to put them to flight. He was the authour of a little piece entitled, "An Essay on the Mischief of giving Fortunes with Women in Marriage," 1727, 12mo. and various poems, which are interspersed in the memoirs of the lives, amours, and writings, of Mrs. Thomas and himself, under the assumed names of Pylades and Corinna. Mr. Gwinnett was a man of "piety, learning, and temperance."

Pope, in his very entertaining letter to Lord Bolingbroke, which describes his journey with Lintot, puts this singular observation on the Doctor, into the mouth of the bookseller: "I remember, Dr. King could write verses in a tavern three hours after he could not speak."

For The Port Folio.

A Statistical Account of the Schuylkill Permanent Bridge.

(Continued from page 171.)

Conflicting interests, and the disinclination of the legislature, to afford sufficient means out of the publick funds, occasioned the abandonment of the measure at that time. The competitions ended in a lesson, which zealous schemers never read, to wit—Opposing advocates, for local and clashing advantages, not unfrequently gain nothing; and are sure to defeat the object of all.

Another project of a bridge over one of these places was proposed, at the time when the canal from Norristown was first contemplated. The canal was thought, by many persons of intelligence, to be more easily and economically practicable, on the west side of the river. It was proposed to erect, at one or the other of the places last mentioned, an *aqueduct bridge*, over which, the canal should cross the river; with a tow-path or passage-way, on each side of the channel for the water, for travelling and land transportation. This is yet believed to have been not only practicable, but also, that it could have been nearly completed, with the sum expended on that unfortunate, though highly desirable enterprize. This is not mentioned with any view of censure; because the obstacles occurring on the east side, very many whereof would have been avoided on the west, compelled expenditures, not calculated upon or foreseen; and preconceived opinions are often found fallacious, when brought to the test of practice.

A little out of its order, is mentioned the last unexecuted plan, for erecting a wooden bridge, over the middle ferry, in the year 1767. A subscription for the purpose was circulated, and many respectable citizens agreed to contribute. But this, from various causes, fell through; and all efforts to accomplish the object were suspended for many years. This bridge was contemplated to be of one arch, with stone abutments; a plan still believed by some of its former advocates, to be practicable and most economical. The intended span was to have been 400 feet: height from the water 47 1-2.

In theory, it seems reconcilable with principles, that an arch of wood or iron, may be extended to any length of span, with sufficient elevation. The point of either practicability or discretion, has never been precisely fixed. In a modern proposal for a single arch of iron, over the Thames, in place of old London bridge, a project is exhibited for an arch of 600 feet span. All agree in the theory, but practical men shrink at the danger; though

there are respectable opinions of intelligent theorists, in favour of its principles. According to the best opinions of practical men here, (among them Mr. Weston and Mr. Palmer) one of 200 feet begins to be critical and hazardous. The timber arch of Piscataway bridge, erected by Mr. Palmer, spans 244 feet; but he declared he would not again attempt one of similar extent. The most intelligent among those who have gained experience in the late structure, believe, that the plan intended for the Schuylkill, in the last project, the draft whereof has been often seen by them, was too extended for *this spot*; and that it would most probably have failed. The weight of transportation here is uncommon and constant, and the friction of course incessant. Strength, symmetry, and firmness, are required here; of which one very extended arch is incapable. Although wood or iron may be so framed, as to have the least possible *drift* or *lateral thrust*, on the abutments or piers, yet there is a point beyond which it is dangerous to pass. Of stone or brick it would be adventurous, beyond all common discretion, to risk an arch of such a span. Nor is the undulatory motion of an extensive arch, (however composed) an unimportant objection.

A bridge of so extended a span must have been (to be safe) so much more elevated, that the filling would have pressed the walls too dangerously. Some relief might have been given by culverts, or reversed arches, to save filling; but these are not without their disadvantages. The pressure on the walls of the present western abutment and wings, is quite as much as masonry on piles will bear; and no other foundation could have been had, but at an unwarrantable expense, the rock at the site of the abutment, being covered with mud and gravel 38 to 40 feet deep. It was deemed and found prudent, to sink the whole frame of the present structure, three feet into the piers, and imposts of the abutments, as well to avoid over-weight of filling, as to depress the platform, or travelling floor, to a point easy of access. An approach of the abutments, for an arch of 400 feet span, would have created a necessity (not known when such a plan was proposed) for coffer dams, and all their dangers and expense. The present bridge enlarges the passage for the water at least a fifth. One for an arch of 300 to 350 feet, would have diminished it in a greater proportion; because the abutments must have approached each other, so as to occupy the position now open, through the land or side arches.

No persons engaged in such difficult works, should risk any project to save expense of foundations, for piers or abutments. But on the other hand, coffer dams should be avoided, if any other means can, with common prudence, be adopted. Their expense is enormous, and their success not always to be ensured. The great proportion of the expenditures in the Schuylkill bridge, has been incurred by the inevitable necessity for coffer dams.—The labour applied, and the difficulties encountered and overcome, will appear to the best informed engineers, uncommon and singularly arduous, as will appear by the short account of them subjoined to the present statement. Every effort was made to avoid the necessity of these dams, but on duly weighing all the projects suggested, none could be adopted with any prospect of safety. The irregularity of the bottom, and depth of water, at once were found to forbid the use of batterdeaus. Floats were thought of, composed of a platform of logs, on which masonry should be formed.—These were to be built on, with logs at the sides, and others crossing the whole, bolted like wharves; filled in with masonry, and raised on as they sunk, till having lodged on the bottom, they should compose the foundation for masonry, from low water mark. But no horizontal, or solid position could be obtained for them. All the objections to batterdeaus lay against them. A flood too, might have carried them off in an unfinished state. This was proved, when a few of the belts of the coffer dam (light and buoyant, compared to these floats, and more easily secured) were swept away by a summer fresh; though they had been supported by some piles, and moored with anchors and cables, capable of holding a stout frigate. The levelling the bottom, or making one artificially (as was done by Semple at the Essex bridge in Dublin) was found impracticable, on account of the thick cover (13 feet) of mud in some parts, and the total bareness and unevenness of the rock in others. It became a choice of difficulties; and the coffer dam, or no bridge, was the alternative. Projects easily and cheaply to be accomplished in shallow streams, with level bottoms, or those capable of being artificially made so, were all found impracticable, and to the last degree imprudent here. The modes pursued in New England, either of piles, wharves, log frames, or stones loosely thrown into the stream, were considered and condemned. The destruction of many of the bridges of that country was predicted; but with a hope that this apprehension might prove unfounded, as the enterprizes of the people there were admired and applauded. Sounds, or arms of the sea, sheltered from violent storms, broad rivers, capable of holding piles, and affording extensive flats, for overflows and waste of floods, will admit of slighter foundations, though always exposed to danger, under

uncommon circumstances. Many of the sites of eastern bridges are of this description.

The pressing necessity for some permanent structure, called the attention of many citizens to the subject. But none, for a long course of time, attempted any decided measure, till the one whose endeavours where finally crowned with success, in the accomplishment of the present erection, moved in this important *desideratum*. It was contemplated, originally, to erect the bridge at a small distance above the upper, or Roach's ferry. One object in fixing on this site, was its supposed advantages in point of practicability. But no inconsiderable motive, was that of leaving the whole western front of the city unobstructed by so great an impediment to the navigation of the Schuylkill, which has already shown itself to be of an estimable consequence.— The improvement of this western front, depending so much on the navigation of the river, is already in great progress. It will add to the evidence of foresight and sound calculation, possessed by its great founder William Penn, when he decided on the plan of our justly celebrated city. At length however it was seen that a project of a bridge, to be effectuated by private advances, could only be accomplished in a spot, in which a majority of interests and opinion where united. Endeavours, which, through many difficulties succeeded, were therefore commenced, for obtaining from the city corporation, the site of the present bridge; and forty thousand dollars (one half in bridge stock) were paid, as the consideration. The general assembly had, by a law, granted to the bridge company, the right of the commonwealth to a valuable lot adjoining this site, on the eastern, and a purchase had been made of property on the western side of the river, which is now highly accommodatory. It is unpleasant to mix the alloy of regret, with the purity of approbation which must attach both to the site, and the structure there established; yet it is to be lamented that one half of the western front of the city, is deprived of navigation on a great scale. re long this river will pour into the lap of Commerce, abundant supplies for foreign markets; and the land transportation passing over it, is very considerable. Twelve feet water can be carried over the bar at the river's mouth; and it is well known, that a channel may be made, to escape the bar, for large vessels, at no formidable expense.— Four fathoms, on an average, may be carried, after passing the bar, up to and along the whole city front. It is to be most seriously hoped, that no obstacles to this important navigation, will in future be added. One errour probably unavoidable, which cannot be rectified, committed in the zeal for a new and essential improvement and accommodation is enough. Passages for vessels, through draws, should be insisted on, if at any time other bridges should be required, where they interfere with the navigation. Posterity should never be disinherited, to serve present and partial objects.

The impediment to the navigation of the Thames, by old London bridge, has long been highly injurious. Insomuch that it is said, in an estimate presented to the British Parliament a few years ago, (1801) that the difference in the price of *coals above*, from that *below* bridge would in a short time pay for taking down the old, and building a *new* bridge, to admit large vessels, either *under* or *through* the bridge, by means of a draw. And there is a great plan in progress for that purpose.

It is mentioned with no view to personal adulation, but as a successful instance, for the encouragement of persistance in commendable pursuits, too often thwarted by opposite interests or opinions, that the "Act for incorporating a Company for erecting a Permanent Bridge over the River Schuylkill, at or near the City of Philadelphia" was obtained, after persevering efforts, during several years by the exertions of Richard Peters, who was elected President of the Company, formed in virtue of that Act. He originated the project of the present structure, and assiduously assisted in its execution, from its commencement to its completion. In a pursuit, generally deemed hopeless, though so obviously of publick utility, he was left solely, to encounter, in its early stages, strong prejudices and incredulity as to its practicability, and many local interests and objections, both as to the place and principles of its establishment. Much opposition from several respectable quarters, was to be overcome, before this law could be obtained. This was the more difficult to combat, because it was grounded on laudable principles; though it was foreseen, as the event proved, that their objects were unattainable; and therefore that no bridge would be erected, but one according to the project effectuated by the present company. Twenty-one townships, on the western side of the river, represented by respectable citizens, combined to prevent the scheme for a toll bridge; under the idea that they could obtain one free of toll, and built by subscription, aided by publick support. But as this mode of raising funds, could not be accomplished, the attempt, (the success whereof was very much to be wished) was abandoned. The Corporation of the city, were very commendably anxious to erect a bridge on their property, under the direction of the City Councils. This would have been an appropriate and desira-

ble object. But funds could not be procured; and their opposition was withdrawn.—The expensive and most extensively useful Water works, had involved the city corporation in pecuniary difficulties; and operated, in no small degree, to induce a sale, of their ferry franchise, to the company incorporated for erecting the bridge.

The act before mentioned was passed the 16th of March 1798. Its principal features are similar to all such incorporating acts.—A stock of $150,000 divided into 15,000 shares, at $10 each, is established. To this have been added 7,500 new shares, to increase the funds: the expenditures being necessarily far greater, than could have been foreseen. A great proportion of the new shares, yet remain in the hands of the company undisposed of.

The usual arrangements for procuring subscriptions prefatory to incorporation are inserted. Three thousand of the original shares, are reserved, for the purchase of a site, and to establish a fund for freeing the bridge. Sundry clauses relate to the incorporation, organization of the Company and its officers, and mode of management of the funds. Power is given to the Stockholders to fix on the site; and, if necessary, to add shares, to increase the funds. There is also a description of the kind of bridge to be built. The property of the bridge (and of such other property as they shall acquire for its purposes or convenience,) is vested in the company for twenty five years after the same shall be completed; and the tolls to be taken are ascertained with great encouragement to the transportation of country produce and manure, and to the use of oxen for draft. Penalties are laid on taking illegal tolls, as well as on those who injure the bridge property, or works, or impede the passage. The bridge is not to be erected "in such manner, as to injure, stop, or interrupt the navigation of the said river, by boats, craft or vessels without masts;" "and when the tolls shall exceed fifteen per cent, nett annual profit; the excess shall compose a fund, for the redemption of the bridge, so as to render it free, save that there shall always be a small toll, or other revenue; for keeping it in repair; this excess shall be laid out in bridge stock, or other productive funds, and the dividends, or annual product, shall be also added to this fund; and all private donations for freeing the bridge shall also be received and invested in like manner; but if by the operation of the fund herein proposed, there shall be a sufficient sum to free the bridge, at a period less than the said twenty-five years, then it shall be redeemed and become free, on the Stockholders' being paid the appraised value thereof, and of the profits thereof for the residue of the said term of twenty five years which may be unexpired; and if the said fund shall not be adequate to the purpose last mentioned, the legislature may, at the expiration of the said twenty-five years, declare it a free bridge, providing at the same time the means of keeping it in repair and the Company shall be obliged to take such sum of money therefor, as shall be allowed on a fair appraisement by indifferent persons; the like appraisement shall take place, when the sinking fund is adequate to the redemption of the bridge and the establishment of a revenue, if a toll be not thought more eligible, for keeping the bridge in repair; but if the said bridge shall not be redeemed, and paid for as a free bridge, before or at the expiration of the said term of twenty-five years, the said corporation may and shall continue to hold the same, on the terms of this act beyond the said term, and until the same shall be redeemed and paid for in manner herein directed."

As a general observation and interpretation of this clause, we insert an extract from a report of the building committee, 31st January 1803. "Our stock will bear a "comparison with any other, either in "point of security or duration. It is se-"cured to us for 25 years after the bridge is "finished. A period long enough to gain a "valuable profit. If it is made free, com-"pensation must be previously made, by ap-"praisement, for both the bridge and its re-"venues. A circumstance, however de-"sirable, not likely to happen. The com-"pany are to hold the bridge, after the "twenty-five years, until they are amply "reimbursed. The duration of their ten-"ure is therefore sufficient, and no loss of "capital can occur. The bridge will be "elevated above all floods; and the piers and "abutments of such strength and solidity, "as to place it out of all danger." And this latter promise of that committee has, it is confidently believed, been faithfully complied with.

In pursuance of this law, the then governour, (Mifflin) on the 27th day of April 1798, incorporated the company; the number of subscriptions, previously required, having been filled.

The company was immediately organized; and the following named persons chosen according to law.

President, Richard Peters.

Directors, John Perot, William Sheaff, Joseph Anthony, John Dunlap, John Dorsey, John Miller, M. C. M'Connell, Robert Ralston, David Evans, junr. William Bingham, Samuel Blodget, Nathan Sellers.

Treasurer, Richard Hill Morris.

The first building committee were Richard Peters, George Fox, William Sheaf, John Dunlap, and John Kean.

The general wish of the stockholders, at the commencement of the project, was strongly in favour of a stone bridge. A draft of a stone structure, elegant, plain, practicable and adapted to the site, with very minute and important instructions for its execution, was furnished to the president gratuitously, by William Weston, Esq. of Gainsborough in England: a very able and scientifick hydraulick engineer, who was then here, and from friendly and disinterested motives, most liberally contributed his professional knowledge and information, to promote the success of the company. The foundations of the present piers, and abutments were laid nearly according to his plan, though circumstances compelled a considerable departure from it, as the work advanced. His communications were attended to with great advantage, wheresoever they could be applied. Having viewed the inefficiency of the eastern coffer dam—in the same spirit of liberality, he furnished the President, a draft for the western coffer dam, before his departure for England. This plan was original, and calculated for the spot on which it was to be placed. It was faithfully and exactly executed under the care of Samuel Robinson, who was then superintendent of the company's work in wood. Mr. Weston foresaw great risques and difficulties, arising from the peculiar character of the river, and the nature of its bottom, in so great a depth of water. He declared, that he should hesitate to risque his professional character on the event, though he was convinced that the whole success of the enterprise depended upon, and required, the attempt. Some ideas of its magnitude may be formed, when it is known that 800,000 feet (board measure) of timber, were employed in its execution, and the accommodations attached to it. Sufficient in quantity for a ship of the line.

But it was soon discovered that the expense of erecting a stone bridge, would far exceed any sum, the revenue likely to be introduced would justify. For this reason alone, no farther progress was made in the stone bridge plan. And though some other drafts, among them a very elegant one by Mr. Latrobe, were presented, the board of directors were under the necessity of returning them, as being objects, however desirable, too expensive to be executed with private funds. It was therefore concluded to procure plans of a bridge to be composed of stone piers and abutments, and a superstructure of either wood or iron.—Mr. Weston at the request of the president and directors, sent from England (after viewing most of the celebrated bridges there, and adding great improvements of his own,) a draft of an iron superstructure, in a very superiour style; yet with his usual attention to utility, strength, and economy, accompanied by models and instructions. Although highly approved, it was not deemed prudent to attempt its execution. All our workmen here, are unacquainted with such operations; and it was thought too hazardous to risque the first experiment.

The casting can be done cheaper here, than in England, and with metal of a better quality, though the amount of the erection would in the whole, far exceed one of wood. Mr. Weston's draft is preserved, and may yet be executed in some part of the United States; and it would do honour to those who could accomplish it. Finally, the plan so successfully perfected was agreed to; having been furnished by Mr. Timothy Palmer of Newburyport in Mass. a self-taught architect, who was employed to execute the work of the frame. He brought with him Mr. Carr, as his second, and four other workmen from New-England. They at once evinced superiour intelligence and adroitness, in the business, which was found to be a peculiar art, acquired by habits not promptly gained, by even good workmen in other branches of framing in wood.—Both the materials and workmanship of this frame, are allowed to be remarkably faultless and excellent. It is also an evidence of prudence, in the President and Directors, in selecting a plan already practised upon, and workmen accustomed to its execution.

Previous to the decision upon the superstructure, the *piers*, without a certainty of the stability whereof, no superstructure could be attempted, were begun; with the intent, that when their completion was ensured, the stockholders might be justified, with confidence to proceed in the work.—There being no general engineer, the President and directors were under the necessity of paying more attention, than is usually required in such cases. The President, with the assistance of a building committee, undertook the charge of the execution of this arduous work, requiring much attention as well in the outline as in its minute details.

The president suggested, with the approbation of the committee, important parts of the plans of the masonry, and modes of securing the dams; and several improvements in the plan of the frame, which were adopted by Mr. Palmer; and occasioned a material difference from those in New England, and elsewhere, erected on similar principles.

The president's proposition and general design of the cover, were approved, and reported by the committee. The opinions of a very great proportion of the Stockhold-

ers were at first opposed to this measure; though when perfectly understood, it was unanimously agreed to. Its novelty excited doubts and apprehensions, which time, and many violent assaults from storms, have proved to have been groundless. It will long remain an example for future similar undertakings; and is the only covered wooden bridge in the world, a much inferiour one over the Limmat, in the north of Europe, excepted.

Mr. Adam Traquair has merit in the draft of the cover, which he assisted to delineate. It was executed with singular fidelity and credit, by Mr. Owen Biddle, an ingenious carpenter and architect of Philadelphia; who made additions to the design. He published an architectural work, entitled "The Young Carpenter's Assistant;" useful as an elementary guide, and which should be encouraged as an American production. In it will be seen a plate of this bridge, and a concise account of it; some parts whereof are herein repeated.

The whole of the masonry was performed by Mr. Thomas Vickers, who possesses not only integrity and practical skill, but is firm, constant, and prudently bold, in hazardous undertakings. His exertions were conspicuous on every emergency and casualty attending the dams, and other dangerous and difficult parts of the work.

Those who with the President, composed the building committee particularly, as well as the other members of the board, and the treasurer, meritoriously afforded every requisite assistance; as well when their aid was necessary in the executive business, as in a laudable attention to its pecuniary affairs. It always happens in such associations, that some pay more attention, and thereby gain and apply more useful intelligence than others

It would be unpardonable, not to mention the stockholders, with high approbation.—Their advances have been great, and their patience under privations of profit, truly commendable. The amount of expenditures is nearly $ 300,000, though the dividends will be made on a much less sum, (about $ 218,000) owing to the application of the floating bridge tolls, to the expense of the building. The company have evidenced a praiseworthy mixture of publick spirit, with a justifiable desire of pecuniary advantages; in which it is to be ardently wished, they will not be disappointed. Although these advantages may be delayed, they are ultimately secured. Not the least gratifying, must be the satisfaction arising from the accomplishment of a publick improvement eminently beneficial, as well in its use as its example, not only to those, who now enjoy its accommodation, but to posterity.

(To be continued.)

From Ramsay's Life of Washington.

The person of George Washington was uncommonly tall. Mountain air, abundant exercise in the open country, the wholesome toils of the chase, and the delightful scenes of rural life, expanded his limbs to an unusual, but graceful and well proportioned size. His exteriour suggested to every beholder the idea of strength united with manly gracefulness. His form was noble, and his port majestick.—No man could approach him but with respect. His frame was robust, his constitution vigorous, and he was capable of enduring great fatigue. His passions were naturally strong, with them was his first contest, and over them his first victory. Before he undertook to command others, he had thoroughly learned to command himself. The powers of his mind were more solid than brilliant. Judgment was his forte. To vivacity, wit, and the sallies of a lively imagination, he made no pretensions. His faculties resembled those of Aristotle, Bacon, Locke, and Newton; but were very unlike those of Voltaire. Possessed of a large porportion of common sense directed by a sound practical judgment, he was better fitted for the exalted stations to which he was called, than many others, who, to a greater brilliancy of parts, frequently add the eccentricities of genius.

Truth and utility were his objects. He steadily pursued and generally attained them. With this view he thought much and closely examined every subject, on which he was to decide, in all its relations. Neither passion, party spirit, pride, prejudice, ambition, nor interest, influenced his deliberations. In making up his mind on great occasions, many of which occured, in which the fate of the army or nation seemed involved, he sought for information from all quarters, revolved the subject by night and by day, and examined it in every point of view. Guided by these lights, and influenced by an honest and good heart, he was imperceptibly led to decisions, which were wise and judici-

ous. Perhaps no man ever lived, who was so often called upon to form a judgment in cases of real difficulty, and who so often formed a right one. Engaged in the busy scenes of life, he knew human nature, and the most proper methods of accomplishing proposed objects. Of a thousand propositions, he knew to distinguish the best, and to select among a thousand the individual most fitted for his purpose.

As a military man he possessed personal courage, and a firmness, which neither dangers nor difficulties could shake. His perseverance overcame every obstacle, his moderation conciliated all opposition; his genius supplied every resource. He knew how to conquer by delay, and deserved true praise by despising unmerited censure. Inferiour to his adversary in numbers, the equipment and discipline of his troops, no great advantage was ever obtained over him, and no opportunity to strike an important blow was ever neglected. In the most ardent moments of the contest, his prudent firmness proved the salvation of his country.

The whole range of history does not present a character, on which we can dwell with such entire, unmixed admiration. His qualities were so happily blended, and so nicely harmonized that the result was a great and perfect whole.

The integrity of Washington was incorruptible. His principles were free from the contamination of selfish and unworthy passions. His real and avowed motives were the same. His ends were always upright, and his means pure. He was a statesman without guile, and his professions, both to his fellow-citizens and to foreign nations, were always sincere. No circumstances ever induced him to use duplicity. He was an example of the distinction, which exists between wisdom and cunning; and his manly, open conduct, was an illustration of the soundness of the maxim, that honesty is the best policy.

The learning of Washington was of a particular kind. He overstepped the tedious forms of the schools; and by the force of a correct taste and sound judgment, seized on the great ends of learning, without the assistance of those means which have been contrived to prepare less active minds for publick business. By a careful study of the English language; by reading good models of fine writing, and, above all, by the aid of a vigorous mind, he made himself master of a pure, elegant, and classical style. His composition was all nerve; full of correct and manly ideas, which were expressed in precise and forcible language. His answers to the innumerable addresses which on all publick occasions poured in upon him, were promptly made, handsomely expressed, and always contained something appropriate. His letters to Congress; his addresses to that body on the acceptance and resignation of his commission; his general orders as commander in chief; his speeches and messages as President, and above all, his two farewell addresses to the people of the United States, will remain lasting monuments of the goodness of his heart, of the wisdom of his head, and of the eloquence of his pen.

The powers of his mind were in some respects peculiar. He was a great, practical, self-taught genius; with a head to devise, and a hand to execute projects of the first magnitude and the greatest utility.

There are few men of any kind, and still fewer of those the world call great, who have not some of their virtues eclipsed by corresponding vices. But this was not the case with General Washington. He had religion without austerity, dignity without pride, modesty without diffidence, courage without rashness, politeness without affectation, affability without familiarity. His private character as well as his publick one, will bear the strictest scrutiny. He was punctual in all his engagements; upright and honest in his dealings; temperate in

his enjoyments; liberal and hospitable to an eminent degree: a lover of order; systematical and methodical in all his arrangements. He was the friend of morality and religion; steadily attended on publick worship; encouraged and strengthened the hands of the clergy. In all his publick acts he made the most respectful mention of Providence, and in a word, carried the spirit of piety with him both in his private life and publick administration.

Washington had to form soldiers of freemen, many of whom had extravagant ideas of their personal rights. He had often to mediate between a starving army, and a high-spirited yeomanry. So great were the necessities of the soldiers under his command, that he was obliged to send out detachments to seize on the property of the farmers at the point of the bayonet. The language of the soldier was, give me clothing, give me food, or I cannot fight, I cannot live.—The language of the farmer was, protect my property.—In this choice of difficulties, General Washington not only kept his army together, but conducted with so much prudence as to command the approbation both of the army and of the citizens. He was also dependent for much of his support on the concurrence of thirteen, distinct, unconnected legislatures. Animosities prevailed between the southern and northern troops, and there were strong jealousies between the states, from which they respectively came. To harmonize these clashing interests, to make uniform arrangements from such discordant sources and materials, required no common share of address. Yet so great was the effect of the modest, unassuming manners of General Washington, that he retained the affection of all the troops, and of all the states.

He also possessed equanimity in an eminent degree. One even tenour marked the greatness of his mind in all the variety of scenes through which he passed. In the most trying situations he never dispaired, nor was he ever depressed. He was the same, when retreating through Jersey from before a victorious enemy, with the remains of his broken army, as when marching in triumph into Yorktown, over its demolished fortifications.—The honours and applause he received from his grateful countrymen, would have made almost any other man giddy; but on him they had no mischievous effect. He exacted none of those attentions; but when forced upon him, he received them as favours, with the politeness of a wellbred man. He was great in deserving them, but much greater in not being elated with them.

For The Port Folio.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

A new edition of Pinkerton's Modern Geography, in 3 vol. 4to. has been recently published in London. The extension of this valuable work, to three very large volumes, has enabled the authour to give to its several parts a juster proportion and greater harmony than in the former edition: and in consequence of the foreign editions having excited the attention of statesmen as well as men of letters, he has received so much valuable assistance, that scarcely a country can be named, on which new information has not been given, derived from some distinguished native or scientifick traveller. During the authour's late residence at Paris, he procured many scarce works, the want of which he had before regretted, and the most recent Spanish materials concerning their colonies in North and South America. Hence the account of New Spain, of the three Vice Royalties in South America, of Chili, and the Government of Caraccas, will be found to contain much new, authentick, and important information. The description of the United States has also been greatly improved and enlarged from the most authentick materials; and that of the

West Indies extended as their importance required. Five new maps are added of the various subdivisions of South America. Mr. Aikin has carefully revised the Botanical part throughout. Dr. Shaw has added Zoological remarks at the end of each volume, and every exertion has been used to render the work as complete as possible.

Campbell's Lectures on Ecclesiastical History.

We recently announced this excellent performance from one of the most learned clergymen of the Scottish schools; it is now ready for sale by Hopkins and Earle. This cheap edition of an expensive work, in its foreign dress, is enriched with the authour's acute Essay on Miracles, containing an examination of principles advanced by David Hume, Esqr. This dispassionate and logical tract has always been considered a masterpiece of controversy. The authour's zeal never makes him forget his urbanity, and his argument is always logical and clear. It is generally considered as irrefragable. This writer was so distinguished in Aberdeen for his wisdom, piety, and goodness, that he quickly attained general respect and high academical honour. His discourses on Church History were originally addressed to the students of Marischal College. They formed a complete course of Theological Lectures, and occupied their venerable authour for many years prior to his death. It was a favourite employment, and the labour of revision and correction was never spared. At the demise of the Doctor, men were importunate in their inquiries for this book, and its publication has added to the reputation of Principal Campbell.

Rece's Medical Guide.

Messrs. Hopkins & Earle have just published a medical manual for the use of families and young practitioners, or students in medicine and surgery; being a complete Practical System of Modern Domestick Medicine, exhibiting in familiar terms the latest and most important discoveries relative to the prevention, distinction, causes, and cure of diseases by medicine and diet, particularly consumption of the lungs, asthma, indigestion, flatulence, gout, scrophula, palsy, rheumatism, cancer, worms, nervous and bilious complaints, the diseases of children, &c. To which are added a family dipensatory, and a copious appendix, containing explicit instructions for the ordinary management of children, and such cases or accidents which require immediate aid, by Richard Reece, M. D. Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, authour of a treatise on the Lichen Islandicus, in diseases of the lungs, &c. The *first* American from the *fourth* London edition.

It is of importance, say the Critical Reviewers, that every man should be enabled to know something of the laws of life, the nature of diseases, and the most rational modes of cure. For this purpose Dr. Reece's book is better adapted than any with which we are acquainted; it is more scientifick and judicious than the Domestick Medicine of Buchan, which, we have no doubt, it will soon entirely supersede. Considered in this light, Dr. Reece's Medical Guide is a valuable performance.

ECCENTRICK ADVERTISEMENTS.

There is a paper printed (occasionally) in Salem, called "The Fool," from which the following is taken:

Dr. Botherum Smokum, having quitted his former profession of chimney-sweeping, now carries on the business of inventing and preparing his much-approved mineral, vegetable, and animal go-to-bed-ical, get-up-ical, go-to-sea-ical, and stay-at-home-ical Medicines.

His patent cut-and-thrust phlebotomizing emetick, cathartick, and diuretick double distilled and double barrelled fire and brimstone cordials.—

An amiable, interesting, pleasing and agreeably innocent, unmedicinal sudorifick, nephritick, anthelmintick, narcotick, tonick, stimulant, alterant, astringent, stomachick, bellyachick, diaphoretick, aperient, emollient, carminative, sedative, rubefacient, antispasmodick, pectoral, crural, and femoral emmenagogue. It is a sovereign, specifick, and instantaneous remedy for *distempers;* acute, chronick, nervous, general, local, real and imaginary, and epidemick disorders; for gunshot wounds, simple and compound fractures, casualties of all kinds and sudden death. It operates equally on the body, mind, estate real and personal, and place of residence of the patient. It is an efficacious and safe cosmetick, removing the pernicious periosteum from the cuticle, and rendering it clear and smooth to a fault. It clears the bile and gastrick juice from the brain, and induces a calm train of ideas. It removes obstructions in the capillary tubes, viz. the thoracick duct, æsophagus, cæcum, &c. &c. It extirpates the spinal marrow, which is the cause of such frequent and fatal complaints. It dissipates adipose tumours and premature births, and is an effectual preventive against old age. It assists Nature in her attempts at amputation in disorders of the head and pluck. From its styptick qualities it is eminently useful in promoting excessive hemorrhages, by which surgical operations of all kinds become quite unnecessary. By rinsing the mouth daily with this cordial, the epiglottis becomes firmly fixed in its socket, and carious teeth adhere closely to the metatarsus, by which means deglutition and chylification progress regularly. The muscles which become flaccid by use are restored to an ossified state, as well as the arterial system. Applied to the eyes it removes the three humours and eradicates the optick nerve; and in disorders of the ears it is useful in perforating the tympanum. In extreme watchfulness and nervous irritability, it induces a permanent and uninterrupted sleep. In sudden attacks from the enemy's cavalry, it brings on an instantaneous coma which may save the patient's life.—From its drying qualities it is useful in cases of drowning; and hanging yields to its elevating stimulus.

Price ten dollars per bottelum.

☞ To prevent counterfeits, every bottle is wrapped in a twenty dollar bill of Detroit bank. By this means a great saving is made by those who purchase by the dozen.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Port Folio.

MR. OLDSCHOOL,

After a long struggle between diffidence and vanity, in which the latter was victorious as is usual in all the contents of these heterogeneous powers, I determined, in despite of a full and complete sense of your reputation for taste and discrimination in matters of *belle esprit*, to send you the following.

I own that it was originally intended as an imitation of one of the odes of Anacreon: but not having the works of that poet before me, when I wrote; and only a vague idea of that particular ode, from having once or twice cursorily run over it, floating in my brain, the resemblance in many instances, is necessarily incomplete: If you accept it in its present form, vanity will gain such a triumph, that I doubt whether Diffidence will ever again dare to show its bashful brow in the concern of your obliged servant, (*in futuro,*) who now subscribes himself, doubtingly, yours,

SCRIBLERUS.

Portland, Jan. 18, 1808.

TO ELIZA.

Come with thy pencil, painter, come
And pallet on thy graphick thumb,
Depict me soft some smiling fair,
With Dian's shape and Venus' air,
Lilly brow and lips of rose,
Auburn tresses—heaving snows,
Eyes, tho' mild yet dazzling bright,
Beauteous beaming orbs of light!

Neck all glossy smooth and fair,
Shaded soft by flowing hair.
Give her the charm I love so well,
The graceful bosom's witching swell;
And arm of nicest symmetry,
Fair as polished ivory;
Then if thy art will serve thee so,
That from her tongue the words may flow,
Pourtray enchantment on her lips,
Where rosy love perennial sips;
But stay thee painted! hasty poet!
Beauteous picture; sure I know it!
Eliza's face and form divine,
Where all the graces mantling shine!
Thine will the picture ever be,
But give thy beauteous self to me.

EPITAPHS.

In Memory of Miss Mary Pelo, who died July 12, 1763, aged ten years.

Come, silly mortal, take your stand,
Here view the world unknown,
Nor would you wish me in your hand,
Or in my God's alone.

My innocence to rest is gone,
In preference to you;
Remember, tho' my work is done,
That yours is yet to do.

Then dry your tears, your duty know,
Rejoice that this is true
To her you certainly may go,
Who cannot come to you.

From a village in Suffolk.

Life is only a pain below
When Christ appears, then—up we go.

MORTUARY.

Died in North Providence in the 39th year of her age, Mrs. ANN SHELDON, the amiable and beloved consort of William Sheldon, Esq. She was born in Derbyshire, (Eng.) and her endearing qualities rendered her the joy of her family, and the delight of all her connexions. During a residence of twelve years in this country, she had not failed to attach unto her many valuable and esteemed friends, who testify their regret on the occasion of her being called upon to obey, what may be considered a premature summons to her tomb!

How dark, though fleeting, are the days of man!
What countless sorrows crowd his narrow span!
For what is life? a groan, a breath, a sigh,
Weak as the flutt'ring moth, or gilded fly—
A lamp just dying in sepulchral gloom,
A voice of anguish from the lonely tomb!
Or wept, or weeping, all the change we know;
'Tis all our mournful history below;
Pleasure is grief, just smiling to destroy;
And soon are past th' illusive dreams of joy!

The deceased lived innocently and virtuously, and her whole happiness was centered in her family, to which she faithfully performed the duties of a wife and a mother. Like the true Israelite of old, she was free from even the smallest degree of hypocrisy and guile; and a nice, a very high sense of honour, rendered her feelingly alive to every appearance of insult or of injury. She felt that fear of death which is common to human nature, and always prayed earnestly that she might be called away without a consciousness of the moment of her departure. In this respect Heaven kindly heard and propitiously granted her the full extent of her prayer. She expired, as she had always wished, in the arms of her husband, without the least consciousness that the awful crisis was at hand; but she had many previous warnings, from sickness and a gradual diminution of her bodily powers—and lived in a constant state of preparation for the sad event.

The price of The Port Folio is Six Dollars per annum, to be paid in advance.

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